

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS 25X1A

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. [REDACTED]

COUNTRY Indochina

DATE DISTR. 21 March 1951

SUBJECT 1. Reorganization of the Viet Minh Army
2. Sino-Viet Minh Military Cooperation

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A

ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFO. 25X1A
[REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCL. 1
LISTED BELOW
SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

Viet Minh Army Reorganization

1. The Viet Minh Army is now undergoing reorganization as a result of the mid-January defeat at Vinh Yen and Phuc Yen. New recruits are being trained to join the 304 Brigade in an attack on Vinh Yen and Phuc Yen in May 1951.
2. In early 1950, Vo Nguyen Giap, Commander-in-Chief of the Viet Minh Army, disapproved a plan of General Nguyen Son calling for the entrance of additional Chinese Communist troops into North Viet Nam. Giap feared that Chinese Communist participation in the fighting would provoke United States intervention. The Viet Minh instead approved the following plan of action, formulated by Giap:
 - a) Allow the French to open several fronts, causing them to disperse their forces.
 - b) Wage limited warfare, such as the Vinh Yen-Phuc Yen attacks in mid-January, while building up the strength of the Viet Minh Army.
 - c) Finally launch a simultaneous attack in North, Central and South Viet Nam.
3. The Viet Minh Army now has three divisions*: the 308 in the Viet Bac Intersector, commanded by Vuong Thua Vu; the 306 in Intersector III, commanded by Hoang Sam; and the 304 in Intersector IV, commanded by Hoang Minh Thao. Each division is composed of 7-8,000 men. In addition, the Viet Minh Army has two Binh Doan (sic) of 2-3,000 men. A third Binh Doan is now being formed.
4. The 95 Artillery Regiment in the Viet Bac Intersector is equipped with 16 x 75 mm cannon, 14 anti-aircraft guns, 13 trucks and over 300 horses and mules. The 43 Artillery Regiment in Intersector III has fewer arms. Both regiments have been trained and equipped by the Chinese Communists. In early 1951, the Viet Minh high command ordered that they be combined with the artillery battalion of the 304 Division to form an artillery division.**

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5. There is occasional lack of accord between the military and political leaders within the Viet Minh Tong-bo. Military leaders are pleased with Viet Minh victories along the South China-Tonkin border, while political leaders believe that the middle region should have been attacked immediately following the capture of French posts along the border, instead of allowing the French time to reinforce their positions.
6. Friction exists between the Chinese Communist-trained and the Soviet-trained officers in the Viet Minh Army, because of the preponderance of Chinese Communist-trained men in important posts.
7. The principal Soviet advisor to the Viet Minh is Divinow, aka Captain George, aka Le Minh.

Sino-Viet Minh Military Cooperation

3. In June 1950, a Chinese Communist military mission under General LSEI Tsi Han arrived in the Yen The*** district of Thai Nguyen to study the Viet Minh military situation. The mission was escorted by a Chinese Communist regiment of 2,000 troops, wearing Viet Minh uniforms.
9. In July 1950, a Chinese Communist regiment, well equipped with anti-aircraft guns, was stationed in the Cao Bang area to protect the newly built Viet Minh road along the Yunnan railway.***
10. After his disagreement with Vo Nguyen Giap (see paragraph 2 above), Nguyen Son resigned his post as Deputy Commander-in-Chief to become Commander of the Sino-Vietnamese Allied Forces in Peiping late last year.*****

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. According to available information, the Viet Minh Army includes six Brigades: the 304, the 306, the 308, the 312, the 316 and the 320. Division is probably used here to mean brigade. It is possible, however, in concurrence with reports that the Viet Minh Army is being organized into units of divisional size, that the 304, 306 and 308 brigades have been reorganized into divisions.

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25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] the decision to form the 95 Division, to include an artillery regiment, an anti-aircraft regiment and a motorized regiment.

25X1A** [REDACTED] Comment. Probably Yen Te (Tinh Dao, 106-03, 21-25).

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. It is not clear to what road this refers. The Yunnan Railway reaches the Indochina border at Lao Kay and according to available information, there is no railway between Caobang and South China.

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25X1A ***** [REDACTED] Comment. According to [REDACTED] 2 October 1950, Nguyen Son was in charge of the training of 20,000 Viet Minh troops in Yunnan. He had previously been reported, in [REDACTED] as commander 25X1A of the Sino-Vietnamese "Red Supply Regiment" of the 308 Brigade. The Sino-Vietnamese Allied Forces possibly refers to units of the Viet Minh Army being trained by the Chinese Communists; no organized joint Sino-Vietnamese Army is known to exist.

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